

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the longstanding and special relationship between the United States and India.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THAJ
KHU MOUA LIA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Thaj Khu Moua Lia. Moua Lia passed away on August 14, 2021. Moua Lia was a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather as well as an inspiration for the entire Hmong community.

Moua Lia was born in Phac Lac (Nong Het), Xieng Khouang Province, Kingdom of Laos. Throughout his life, he fought to bring more education to the mountains of Laos, leading him to become the first Superintendent of Schools in Xieng Khouang Province.

After studying pedagogy, student testing and placement, special education, and ethnic group school systems in France and Thailand, Moua Lia returned to Laos and began rehabilitating Xieng Khouang Province by reforming the school systems in remote areas that had been ravaged by war. During this time, he helped establish the first institution for Hmong teachers called Samthong College.

His commitment to improving the education system for ethnic minorities in Laos took him all over the world, specifically to Singapore

and the United States, where he collected ideas and strategies for how to better approach education in the regions he served.

When Laos fell to communist army forces in 1975, Moua Lia and his family received asylum in France for 15 years. They later moved to Merced, California, where he worked as the Community Outreach Specialist in the local school district, and retired in 2005, still actively supporting the community through various projects.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Thaj Khu Moua Lia. His service and contributions to the Hmong community in the Central Valley and beyond will be missed. I join his friends, loved ones, and community in celebrating Moua Lia's life.

RECOGNIZING LEE MONTEFORTE,
GREATER PITTSSTON FRIENDLY
SONS OF ST. PATRICK'S 2021
SWINGLE AWARD WINNER

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lee Monteforte, who will receive the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's 2021 W. Francis Swingle Award at their Halfway to St. Patrick's Day event on Friday, September 24, 2021.

Lee was born and raised in Pittston, Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Pittston Area High School and he continued his academic

career at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in education.

Lee started his professional career working as a representative for MetLife Securities and Wachovia Bank. He then transitioned into a career in marketing in the broadcast media industry, sharpening his skills in digital strategy, broadcast sales, connected TV advertising, and media buying. In 2000, he started at WOLFTV FOX 56 as a marketing consultant, and in 2006, he joined the marketing team at WNEP-TV 16.

Lee also dedicates his time to serving his community. In 2015, he served as president of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons, and he has volunteered with the Pittston City St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus John F. Kennedy Council 372 and a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus Assembly 948. He currently serves as secretary for the Pittston Knights Home Association. Seeking to encourage young athletes and to further give back to his community, Lee returned to his alma mater, Pittston Area, to coach track and field and cross country.

Lee lives in Jenkins Township with his wife, Deborah, and they are the proud parents of Justin and Jaret.

I am honored to join with the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in recognizing Lee as the recipient of the 2021 Swingle Award. May he continue to find success in his career and fulfillment in his time spent serving his community.